

MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A composite fabric comprising a substrate and a coating (3) applied to the substrate so as to form a continuous sheet adhered to the substrate [characterised in that] , wherein the substrate comprises a mesh of multifilament metal cord (1).

2. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein the substrate is woven and comprises warp and weft cords (1).

3. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 2, [characterised in that] wherein the warp and weft cords (1) are arranged substantially at right angles to each other.

4. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in [any preceding claim, characterised in that] claim 1, wherein interstices between adjacent cords (1) have side dimensions in the range from 0.05 mm to 12 mm.

5. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 4, [characterised in that] wherein interstices between adjacent cords (1) have side dimensions in the range from 3 mm to 10 mm.

6. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 5, [characterised in that] wherein interstices between adjacent cords (1) have side dimensions in the range from 5 mm to 10 mm.

7. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in [any preceding] Claim 1 and

including two or more substrates of multifilament metal cord mesh.

8. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 7, [characterised in that] wherein the mesh pattern of at least two substrates is not coincident.

9. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in Claim 8, [characterised in that] wherein the direction of the metal cords (1) is not identical in the at least two substrates.

10. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 9, [characterised in that] wherein the directions of the metal cords (1) in adjacent substrates are off-set from each other by an angle in the range from 5 degrees to 20 degrees.

11. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 10, [characterised in that] wherein the angle is about 10 degrees.

12. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 8, [characterised in that] wherein the pattern of at least one substrate is offset from that of at least another substrate.

13. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in [any preceding claim, characterised in that] claim 1, wherein the multiple filaments of the metal cord are twisted together as one or more strands.

14. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 13, [characterised in that] wherein a plurality of strands are twisted together to form a group.

15. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in [any preceding claim, characteri-

sed in that] claim 1, wherein the filament diameter is in the range from 0.05 mm to 1.25 mm.

16. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 15, [characterised in that] wherein the filament diameter is about 0.18 mm.

17. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in [any preceding claim, characterised in that] claim 1, wherein the cords (1) are made of steel.

18. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 17, [characterised in that] wherein the cords (1) are provided with a corrosion-resistant coating.

19. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 17, characterised in that] claim 1, wherein the cords (1) are made of a corrosion-resistant alloy.

20. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in [any preceding claim, characterised in that] claim 1, wherein the coating (3) comprises a polymeric material.

21. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 20, [characterised in that] wherein the coating (3) comprises a thermoplastic polymer.

22. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 20 [or 21, characterised in that] , wherein the polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF), polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) and rubber.

23. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in [any one of claims 20 to 22,

characterised in that] claim 20, wherein the coating (3) is applied to the substrate by laminating.

24. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in [any one of claims 20 to 22, characterised in that] claim 20, wherein the coating (3) is applied to the substrate by liquid extrusion.

25. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in [any one of claims 20 to 22, characterised in that] claim 20, wherein the coating (3) is applied to the substrate by dipping the substrate into molten or semi-molten coating material.

26. (Amended) A goods container provided with a curtain comprising a sheet of a composite fabric [as claimed in any preceding claim] comprising a substrate in the form of a mesh of multifilament cord and a coating applied to the substrate so as to form a continuous sheet adhered to the substrate; means to suspend the curtain from an upper portion of said container; and means to secure the curtain in place with respect to said container.

27. (Amended) A goods container as claimed in claim 26, [characterised in that] wherein the composite fabric does not extend as far as [the] an upper edge portion of the curtain.

28. (Amended) A goods container as claimed in claim 27, [characterised in that] wherein the upper edge portion of the curtain is provided by a sheet of conventional curtain material secured to [the] an upper edge of the composite fabric.